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U.S. EMBARGO TALKS HANG FIRE

Hongkong Official Leaves Washington For London

Negotiation To Proceed On Diplomatic Level

COMMENT

Mr Acheson's refusal to speculate on the prospects of a triangular Pacific Defence Pact, involving an American alliance with Australia and New Zealand, is not difficult to understand. The importance of a co-operative effort to establish security for free nations in this region of the globe, parallel to that obtaining in the North Atlantic area, has been bitterly emphasised by the eight months of struggle in Korea, but only recently have those most vitally interested got down to bedrock, and without making headway beyond the exploratory stage.

Were it sufficient to achieve an understanding between three countries it would be relatively easy of accomplishment, but for efficiency the scope requires to be considerably broadened, to include all those menaced.

That presents a problem bristling with difficulty. There does not exist in the Pacific the same basic homogeneity that prevails in Western Europe. There is not yet sufficient sense of common danger to override the many differences of outlook and approach. And when attitudes are dependent upon the degree to which each nation feels itself threatened, that perforce rules high in consideration of the chances of discovering a basis for working union.

Fear is acute in the Philippines. An invasion of sorts is already in progress in Indo-China and neither France, the United States nor the Vietnam states are indifferent to it. India and Burma are feeling border pressures but their leaders still hope for a compromise "if the Communists of China are not too deeply antagonised."

Very different points of view will have to be brought together before any pact can take shape. The differences in some cases are so great that an inclusive alliance in the near future is most unlikely.

Mr Acheson gives an assurance of persistent effort, but how far feelings will be influenced in countries still growing to nationhood in respect to the overall problem is still to be seen.

The Director of Commerce and Industry, Hongkong, Mr A. G. Clarke, is due to arrive in London tonight from Washington without, it is believed, much progress to report on the talks concerning the American embargo on the shipment of goods to Hongkong and Macao.

London, Feb. 22.

U.S. PLAN FOR AID IN S.E. ASIA

Washington, Feb. 22.

The United States was reported here today to be contemplating its own programme of economic and technical aid for South and South-East Asia involving an estimated \$250,000,000 in the first year.

One report said that the plan would be submitted to Congress within a month.

Official confirmation could not be obtained, but observers reported that it was evident that the United States was contemplating such a plan independent of the Commonwealth.

Some diplomatic sources here did not rule out the possibility that part of the Colombo Plan itself might be taken over by the United States if the Commonwealth countries cannot find the necessary backing.

This would leave the American Government free to administer its own portion of the programme.

It would also overcome possible objections that the United States would lose its identity by taking part in the Colombo Plan.

POSSIBLE JEOPARDY

Some observers saw possible jeopardy for the ambitious Commonwealth plan in recent official statements here. These statements made it appear unlikely that the United States would take part directly in the Colombo project. Commonwealth countries had hoped for a sizable contribution from the United States.

The Secretary of State, Mr Dean Acheson, was asked specifically yesterday to outline the United States attitude towards the Colombo Plan in the light of Canada's recent offer to contribute \$25,000,000 provided the United States took part directly.

He did not answer the question directly but reiterated American sympathy with the ideals of the Colombo Plan. Then, he added that the United States would make every effort to co-ordinate its own aid programmes with the Colombo Plan. —Reuter.

More Employed

London, Feb. 22.

Britain's working population rose by 225,000 in 1950 to 23,225,000 and the number of unemployed dropped by 29,000 to 301,816 at the year's end, the Ministry of Labour Gazette said today.

The unemployed were 200,953 men, 90,895 women and 9,968 boys and girls under 18. —Reuter.

Lack of any announcement either in Washington or London, coupled with the departure of Mr Clarke, has given rise to conjecture whether the talks have broken down.

This was denied by the Colonial Office spokesman this evening but he would give no comment when further asked whether it could be stated that progress had been achieved.

It is understood that the talks will continue now on the diplomatic level.

Mr Clarke has spent some time in Washington urging the serious effect of the embargo on Hongkong despite the partial lifting of the embargo in order to release goods shipped prior to

the embargo and detained en route.

The Americans have had impressed on them the necessity for Hongkong to have shipments in order to carry on normal industrial activities and that no question arises of such shipments finding their way to China.

HANGING FIRE

Proposals by which shipments of consumer goods might be licensed by the American authorities on certification by the Hongkong authorities that such goods will be used either for local consumption or for processing for trans-shipment for non-Chinese destinations, seem to hang fire, judging from latest reports from Washington.

Mr Clarke, who is expected to report to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has arranged to fly back to Hongkong this week-end. —London Express Service.

De Gasperi And Attlee To Confer

London, Feb. 22.

The Italian Prime Minister, Signor Alcide de Gasperi, is to visit London from March 12 to 15 at the invitation of the British Government.

He will be accompanied by his Foreign Minister, Count Carlo Sforza.

An official announcement from the office of the Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, today said: "Signor de Gasperi and Count Sforza will, during their stay, have informal conversations with the Government on current affairs of common interest."

The position of Yugoslavia amongst her well-armed Communist neighbours is one problem observers here think will be discussed during the London meetings. The problem will be considered in relation to the existing commitments of the Western Powers in the way of military guarantees. The London talks are considered likely to give serious consideration to the major strategic problems of Mediterranean defence. —Reuter.

Germany To Be Kept In Touch

Berlin, Feb. 22.

The West German Chancellor, Dr Konrad Adenauer, will be informed "to the fullest possible extent" of the discussions at the proposed meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers.

The Allied High Commission, announcing this today, said that they would also "give consideration to any views that the Federal Government might wish to present." —Reuter.

Better Deal For Service Families

(Our Own Correspondent)
London, Feb. 22.

The welfare of Service-men's families in Hongkong is to be raised in Parliament next week.

Brigadier-General Terence Clark is to ask the Minister of Defence if he will grant local overseas allowances to Service personnel who have left their families in Hongkong and Malaya.

World Record Price For Wool

Melbourne, Feb. 22.

Wool-men were left speechless when three bales of lambs-wool of rare perfection fetched a world record price of 427 pence (Australian) a pound at Geelong Sales today.

They said that there was no known instance of a higher price ever paid for wool of any kind. And the wool itself was easily the finest of its type they had ever seen. Its official description was "very choice, extra superfine Merino lamb".

The price exceeded by 16 pence (Australian) the previous record price made at Geelong last week.

A new world record for fine combing wool was also paid today for three bales—302½ pence (Australian) per pound—surpassing yesterday's previous record by 16½ pence (Australian) per pound. —Reuter.

Grim British Labour Crisis Threatens

London, Feb. 22.

The Government were still trying tonight to avert a railway strike which threatened week-end transport chaos and the biggest labour crisis since the 1926 general strike.

Three thousand railwaymen in the North of England brought the threat nearer by stopping work as Mr Aneurin Bevan, Labour Minister, told the House of Commons that the outcome of eleventh hour talks with railwaymen was not yet known.

Tens of thousands more railwaymen all over the country are likely to strike at midnight tomorrow if the negotiations fail.

The crisis has arisen over the demand of the three railway unions for a bigger wage increase than the nationalised railway executive is willing to pay.

Mr Bevan saw the railway executive officials and trade union leaders today after three days of negotiation between them had ended in deadlock late last night.

Tonight the union leaders were recalled to the Ministry. While these meetings took place in London, the protest movement among railwaymen gained momentum.

Transport of coal from South Yorkshire pits was stopped by a strike of all men at key rail yards near Barnsley. Thousands of men at Manchester stopped work and local train services were disorganised tonight.

Over 10,000 men at several vital rail centres were operating a "go slow" movement which has already caused serious freight delays. —Reuter.

Dockers' Leaders At Bow Street



Supporters rush to greet some of the dockers' leaders as they leave Bow Street Police Court after being charged with conspiracy to incite an illegal dock strike. On the left, being embraced, is Mr William Johnson, of Merseyside, and on the right (with hand raised) is Mr Albert Timothy, chairman of the London Port Workers' Committee.—Central Press.

Time For Elections Not Yet

Rangoon, Feb. 22. District election commissioners and the heads of the police force today gave evidence before the Supervisory Election Commission, presided over by the Chief Justice of the Burma Supreme Court, on the feasibility of holding elections in their respective areas.

The findings of the Commission will be submitted to Government in a fortnight's time. The present indications are that general elections will not be held before May 4 this year as scheduled.

The Burmese Constitution fixed elections within 18 months of independence on Jan. 4, 1948. On the expiry of that date Parliament amended the Constitution, postponing elections by one year, owing to insurrections.

Meanwhile, an eight-man Supervisory Election Commission headed by the Burmese President toured the country and recommended the postponement by another 10 months, with a deadline of May 4, 1952.—Reuter.

London, Feb. 22. The House of Commons will debate the situation in Malaya next Tuesday, it was announced today.

The debate is at the request of the Opposition. It will begin at 7.00 p.m. GMT and last for three hours.—Reuter.

Philippines Prison Break

Manila, Feb. 23. Three convicts were shot dead, another recaptured and a fifth succeeded in escaping from the National Penitentiary at Muntinlupa, some 20 miles south of here, when five men made a dash for freedom while working on a prison farm.

A prison guard sustained injuries when he was attacked and disarmed by the gaolbreakers.

A hunt is on for a six-year term convict who succeeded in losing his pursuers among thickets near a creek. First signs of the gaolbreak came at about 2.30 p.m. when shots were heard from the direction of the prison farm.

Guards opened fire on the prisoners when it became evident they still intended to escape despite warning shots.

Reports said the convicts were armed with Springfield rifles, but there was no indication they returned fire and no guard was reported shot at.—United Press.

East Germany's Refusal

Berlin, Feb. 22. The East German authorities yesterday rejected a West German request to reopen the only direct waterway linking Berlin with the Ruhr area.

Barge traffic on this route has been paralysed since Jan. 12 when the East German authorities closed the Magdeburg-Rothensee canal locks for repair works.—Reuter.

Technical Assistance Agreement

Manila, Feb. 22. The Philippines has become the sixth country in Southeast Asia to sign a basic technical assistance agreement with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation, according to a notification received by the Foreign Office from the FAO regional office at Bangkok today.

The agreement lays down the conditions under which FAO will render technical assistance to the Philippines. The agreement also makes possible supplementary agreements concerning specific projects.

The agreement, previously signed by Acting Foreign Secretary Felino Neri in Manila on behalf of the Philippines, became effective on Feb. 8 when it was signed at Bangkok by the FAO regional representative, Mr W. H. Cummings.—United Press.

Sanatorium For Peking

San Francisco, Feb. 22. Peking is to have a sanatorium for Asian students, a radio broadcast from the Chinese capital said tonight.

The site of the sanatorium, the foundation stone of which was laid yesterday, is at the foot of pine-covered hills some 24 miles north of Peking. It has hot springs and faces a river.

Plans for the sanatorium were drawn up by architectural students of the Peking and Tsinghua Universities.

Construction of the sanatorium will start next month, the broadcast said.—Reuter.

Nepal Statement Refused

London, Feb. 22. Mr Ernest Davies, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, refused to make a statement in the House of Commons today on the negotiations now going on for the formation of an interim Government in Nepal.

Asked by Brigadier-General Ralph Royner, Conservative, if he would do so, Mr Davies replied: "No. The British Government have no responsibility in this matter."—Reuter.

CONTROVERSY OVER NATURE OF AMERICAN AID

Ground Troops For Europe Or Stronger Air Arm?

Washington, Feb. 22.

Republican Senator Wayne Morse said today that the administration should make "very clear" that its plan to send about 100,000 more United States troops to Europe may be inadequate if the world crisis gets worse.

"If the administration spokesmen are telling us one thing and the facts are the other, that would be a colossal fraud."

Senator Morse, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said plans to send four more American divisions to supplement the two already in Europe may not be a high enough goal.

The Armed Services Committee and the Foreign Relations Group will continue their hearings on the troops issue with testimony scheduled from another group of Air Force generals.

Mr Morse said previous witnesses from the Defence Department have given the "impression that the forces they are recommending will do their job in Europe in the immediate future. He said he had a 'serious question' about this.

The committee also are taking testimony by two Republican leaders who strongly back the administration recommendations. Mr Harold Stassen, president of the University of Pennsylvania, will be heard on Friday, and the Governor of New York, Mr Thomas Dewey, on Saturday.

The Republican Senators, Robert Taft and Kenneth Wherry, both of whom oppose the troop plan, will be heard on Monday.—United Press.

AIR POWER ADVOCATED

Washington, Feb. 22. Increased American defensive and offensive air power should be given priority over sending American troops to Europe, Lieutenant-General Dennis Whitehead, Air Defence Commander, told Senators here today.

He gave this view to the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees which are considering a resolution by the Republican leader, Senator Kenneth Wherry (Nebraska) to prohibit President Truman from sending additional ground troops to Europe until Congress has fixed a policy.

General Whitehead, called at Senator Wherry's request, said that ground troops were important "because it takes every-

thing to fight a war", but, he added, "it is a matter of priority with air power coming first."

"BEEFED UP"

General Whitehead asserted that a long-range striking air force should be given priority on building American defence.

Second priority should go to a defensive air force, capable of protecting industry and preventing American long-range bombers from being destroyed at their bases. Both the long-range striking air force and the defence forces needed to be "beefed up", he said.

In the case of his own command it appeared that several months ago the programme was "coming along pretty fast", but it seemed to have slowed down.

"The aeroplanes are not coming as fast as I thought they would", he said.—Reuter.

HIGH LEVEL TALKS ON PACIFIC

Washington, Feb. 22. High level discussions of two subjects of major importance to the Far East—a Japanese peace treaty and a Pacific Pact—will commence here next week with the return of the special Presidential representative, Mr John Foster Dulles, from a swing around the Pacific.

Mr Dulles, who has spent the past month discussing these subjects with officials in Japan, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand, will arrive in Washington on Monday.

With Mr Dulles will be Mr William Sebald, top American diplomatic adviser in Japan who has flown from Tokyo to Honolulu to make the last leg of his journey home with the Dulles Party.

Authoritative sources here report that Mr Dulles is "generally well pleased" with the results of his Pacific tour.

United States officials enthusiastic about the Pacific pact idea have warmed up to it in recent weeks because they believe it may offer a solution of a thorny problem they have faced in their efforts to secure agreement on Japanese peace treaty terms. This problem is that Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines have expressed some opposition to the American proposal that the peace treaty or treaties contain no prohibition of Japanese rearmament. They envisage the possibility of an eventually resurgent Japan embarking again on a course of Pacific conquest.

Some American officials believe that they can quiet these fears by acquiescing in a Pacific pact arrangement which would, in addition to guaranteeing ocean countries against Communism, ensure them against any possibility of resurgent Japanese militarism.—United Press.

FRENCH PUSH SUCCEEDS

Saigon, Feb. 22. A French Army communique claimed today that French Union forces have occupied a rich rice-growing area of Cochinchina. Nineteen new French posts were established to control the newly-won territory around Monca.

Planes, artillery and amphibious vehicles, sweeping the Longuyen area, 110 miles southwest of Saigon, forced Vietminh insurgents to flee west toward difficult swamp and jungle country, the communique added.

In the Tonkin area, French forces killed 58 Vietminh soldiers in local actions south of Ke-Sat, 15 miles southeast of Hanoi. They took 86 prisoners and recovered a number of arms.

French American-built fighter planes bombed and strafed Vietminh positions both in Tonkin and Cochinchina.—Reuter.

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STRAIGHTENING KOREA LINES

U.N. Forces Advance An Average Of Ten Miles Canadian Troops Go Into Action For First Time

Tokyo, Feb. 22.

United Nations troops wiped out more of the Communist salient in Central Korea today, the second day of the new MacArthur offensive.

Their aim is to straighten the line dented by the Chinese Communist counter-offensive which collapsed last week.

Safe Landing After Air Collision

Singapore, Feb. 22.

A Vampire jet fighter and a twin-engined Mosquito both landed safely after colliding over Seletar Airfield today.

The Vampire was one of eight jets on the last lap of a delivery flight from Britain. The Mosquito was escorting them.

A convoy of four Vampires left Singapore today and later arrived at Saigon on their way to the Royal Air Force airfield at Hongkong.—Reuter.

N.Z. Strikers Warned

Wellington, Feb. 22.

The government assumed wide powers in an attempt to break the five-day-old waterfront strike today and warned union leaders and strikers that they would be liable to gaol sentences unless they returned to work by Monday.

The Public Safety Act, under which the government is given power in emergencies, calls for imprisonment up to three months and fines up to £500 for offenders. The Labour Minister, Mr William Sullivan, warned that, unless the men returned to work by Monday, every striker and union official who cannot prove that he tried to end the strike would be considered an offender.

However, reports from the labour front indicated that the unions intended to fight the government.—United Press.

A drying sun soaked up the quagmire caused by heavy rains through which soldiers from Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States and South Korea manhandled guns and vehicles through mist-filled valleys and over snowy mountains.

On a 50-mile front without much opposition they drove forward an average of 10 miles. An American Army spokesman described it as a vital phase of the Korean campaign.

The main direction of the thrust northwards was made by the American 9th Corps and part of the American 10th Corps, to which the troops of the other nations were attached.

The Commonwealth Brigade, after sleeping in cold wet fox-holes last night, today crossed 1,500-foot hills—sinking in snowdrifts, skidding on slimy clay and clinging to stunted mountain bushes—to reach the valleys which were their first objective.

By tonight they were six miles east of Chipyong, the corner-stone of the United Nations defence last week.

An Eighth Army communique said that there was "moderate resistance" to the American troops advancing five miles due north of Chipyong.

The Communists fought back from a hill position north of Chipyong, and the Americans had to withdraw to give space for a heavy artillery barrage.

North of Wonju the advance continued unchecked and further east patrols ranged almost to Pyongchang.

Little ground activity was reported in the Seoul area today but Communist artillery and mortars bombarded Yongdongpo, Seoul's southern industrial suburb, which is held by the Allies.

NEAR HOENGSONG

American spearheads, driving northward up the central Korean corridor from Wonju, were tonight reported to be

only two and a half miles from the Communist-held town of Hoengsong.

These spearheads were the eastern arm of the Eighth Army's pincer movement to trap a large Communist force in the mountain ranges of Central Korea.

Better visibility today enabled United Nations air power to batter the Communist positions ahead of the advancing Allied troops.

Meanwhile, Canadian troops, leading the British Commonwealth troops in a northeasterly wheeling movement over the mountains, saw their first action of the war today when they fought their way through an estimated enemy company.

Tramping in rain-sodden clothing over slippery mountain passes, the Canadians went into the attack shortly after the jump-off at 8.00 o'clock this morning.

By 5.45 o'clock tonight they were firmly dug in on their objective.

Other units of Major-General Bryant E. Moore's 9th Corps reported gains of up to two miles in some of the worst fighting weather of the war.

The torrential rains which fell yesterday bogged down the United Nations armour in a welter of mud.

NEW DEFENCE LINE

There was also evidence that the Eighth Army's drive was nearing the Chinese Communist defence lines set up after their recent reverses.

American troops driving north-eastwards from Chipyong, along the Chinese Communists' main supply route from Chunchon, fought it out with what they estimated was a battalion of the enemy this morning but by tonight the Americans had gained nearly two miles since their jump-off.

The other sectors of the 9th Corps front remained relatively quiet.

Tonight's Eighth Army communique said that 1,718 Communists were killed or wounded yesterday.

By late this afternoon United Nations pilots claimed to have inflicted 700 casualties on the enemy in day-long flights through spotty weather.

They found the best targets in the western sector below Seoul, where little ground activity was reported today.—Reuter.

Struble Visit To Chiang

Taipei, February 22.

The United States Seventh Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral Arthur Struble, paid a courtesy call on President Chiang Kai-shek today somewhere in southern Formosa.

He was entertained at a tea party and had a one-hour talk with Generalissimo Chiang.—United Press.



In a charming Elizabethan setting, an old soldier, dressed in the picturesque uniform of the days of Good Queen Bess, passes his twilight days in the peace and quiet of the Earl of Leicester Hospital in Warwick. It seems as if Shakespeare himself might turn the corner at any moment to again view the buildings that were part of his world.

Collective Security In Middle East

Cairo, Feb. 22.

A high United States State Department official said today that he believed the West could count on support from the Arab world, in the event of war with Russia.

"I feel distinctly the Arab world is on our side," the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Mr George McGhee, told a news conference after his arrival from the Middle Eastern United States diplomats' conference in Istanbul.

He said the United States would actively build up collective security forces throughout the Middle East. United States aid to Greece, Turkey and Iran, he said, was proof that America was ready to help the Middle East countries defend themselves against the threat of Communism.

Asked whether he thought there was a strong Communist threat to the Middle East, he replied, "I see no internal threat in the Middle East countries, but there is a serious Communist threat to the whole world."

Mr McGhee declined to discuss a report that he is here to discuss the use of air bases in the Suez zone and also brushed aside a question regarding the American attitude toward the present Anglo-Egyptian negotiations. He later went into a 40-minute conference with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Salah el Din Bey. Afterwards he said they reviewed the international scene and he had informed the Foreign Minister of the Istanbul conference recommendations concerning Egypt.—United Press.

Britain's Growing Stockpiling Bill

London, Feb. 22.

The stockpiling of strategic raw materials and food will cost Britain £143 million on top of the £1,100 million she is spending on defence this year.

The Civil Estimates presented to Parliament yesterday show that in addition substantial sums will be spent on capital assistance to defence contractors and ordnance factories.

Including such items, the British rearmament programme over the next three years will cost about £5,000 million. Defence costs are the main factors in raising this year's Civil Estimates to £2,383 million from the £2,191 million for the current year ending next month.

Over half the total sum to be spent on stockpiling will go to buy food stocks. The Ministry of Food gets £72,592,000 for its "strategic reserves" while the Board of Trade takes £40,000,000 and the Ministry of Supply £22,500,000.

In the current year the three totals were respectively £3,000,000, £1,873,000 and £7,900,000.

Other sharp increases are: Civil defence up from £6,000,000 to £10,000,000.

The Secret Service gets an extra £1,000,000 to bring its total grant up to £4,000,000.

Foreign Office grants and services up from £14,000,000 to £25 million because of Britain's payments for relief in Korea.

The largest single item is the National Health Service costing £398,000,000. National Insurance takes £219,000,000.—Reuter.

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Tudor Costumes At A London Wedding



Little Jane Stockdale, five, and her sister Victoria, seven, left, are wearing Tudor-style dresses of blue velvet as attendants at a wedding in London. The ceremony took place at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, and to be certain everything was authentic, the bride designed the dresses.



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CONGRESSMAN ARGUES AGAINST APPOINTMENTS IN ATLANTIC DEFENCE

Washington, Feb. 22.

A member of the House Armed Services Committee said today he was opposed to the appointment of Americans to all the top posts of the Atlantic defence forces.

Representative Leroy Johnson, who toured Europe's defences last summer, made the comment after hearing that a United States Admiral is expected to be named head of Europe's naval force.

DEATH FOR TREASON IN RED CHINA

Tokyo, Feb. 22.

Peking Radio announced the imposition of death and life imprisonment penalties for "crimes against the State," and "treason against the motherland by working in league with imperialism."

The official organ, Peking People's Daily News, commenting on the new law, said the time has come to "thoroughly uproot counter-revolutionary elements."

Quoting Mao Tse-tung, the paper said: "All these counter-revolutionary activities are planned and directed from behind the scene by imperialism, especially American imperialism."

The paper said that as long as imperialism exists, counter-revolutionary activities will continue to occur, but "the Chinese people, by learning from Soviet experience, must know that only when resolute measures of suppression are adopted, can counter-revolutionary activities be reduced and finally extinguished." — United Press.

U.S. Bid For Atom-Energy Aircraft

Washington, Feb. 22.

The United States Air Force and the Atomic Energy Commission announced today the completion of the first phase of study leading to atom-powered aircraft.

A joint statement on the conclusion of their "NEPA" project (nuclear energy for the propulsion of aircraft) said, "Other projects being supported by the Air Force in the field of nuclear powered flights will be continued."

The next phase will be closer to the building of an atomic engine, presumably, starting with some experimental components.

The announcement said, "The facilities and equipment (at Oak Ridge, Tennessee) used in this work will be utilised in other programmes and buildings will be dismantled."

This appeared to indicate that the next phase would be carried on elsewhere, presumably at Lockland, where the General Electric Company is building jet engines and is expanding both production and research facilities. — Reuter.

Egyptian Princess Dead

Cairo, Feb. 22.

Princess Khadiga, sister of Prince Mohamed Aly, the Heir Apparent to the Egyptian Throne, died here today, aged 72. The daughter of the Khedive Tewfik, Princess Khadiga married Prince Abbas Halim, of Turkey.

King Farouk has ordered one week's Court mourning. — Reuter.

Prague Sneer At Attlee

Prague, Feb. 22.

A letter in the Czechoslovak Communist paper, Rude Pravo, said today that Marshal Stalin had revealed the British Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, as "a conjurer who has just drawn a dead cat instead of a lion from his silk hat." — Reuter.

General Prophecies Long Peace

Melbourne, Feb. 22.

The rearming of Britain, the United States and Western Europe would bring about another long period of peace, Lieutenant-General Sir Horace Robertson, the Commander of the British Commonwealth force in Japan, told a press conference here today.

He arrived from Tokyo on Tuesday for a conference with the Chiefs of Staff of the Australian Services.

Last week's United Nations victory in Korea was having a big effect on China and might give the diplomats a better chance, he said. The Chinese people were hearing of it because hospitals right down through Manchuria into China were full of casualties.

"This was their best army. They have plenty of men, but not trained men and equipment. They will not be cocky as when that deputation went to the United Nations," General Robertson said. — Reuter.

Fenner Brockway On 'Third Force'

London, Feb. 22.

The Congress of Peoples Against Imperialism concluded meetings in London this week with a statement today by Mr Fenner Brockway, Member of Parliament, that a third force was arising in the world.

This force, he said, was independent of the two-power blocs and did not wish to be dragged into a world war.

Addressing journalists in a conference room at the House of Commons, Mr Brockway said that the organisation now represented most national movements in the British and French colonies and brought together Arab and Negro.

The conference had endorsed and supported the initiative of the Arab and Asian countries in calling for the independence and unity of Korea, the withdrawal of all foreign troops and the cessation of all foreign intervention.

In Indo-China it urged negotiation with the Government of Ho Chi-minh, with complete independence of the Vietnamese to choose their own regime.

The Congress proposed that the Indian Government should offer its services in Malaya to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign troops and the recognition of the right of the people to independence.

The resolution condemned what it called "the totalitarian methods to which the British authorities are resorting" in Malaya. It instanced the conscription of manpower and the destruction of villages. It demanded that 27 officers of co-operative, trade and student movements in Singapore, who had recently been arrested, should be given public trials.

Congratulations were sent to the Convention People's Party of Nigeria on their victory in the elections. The Congress welcomed the steps taken in Nigeria to unify the nationalist movements and urged that the claim to full self-government and self-determination should be maintained.

It endorsed the Kenya African Union's demands for the ending of racial segregation, the restoration of land to the African people and a common electoral roll for all races in a democratic constitution. — Reuter.

RECIPROCAL TRADE APPEAL

Mr. Acheson Advocates Extension Of American Programme

The Dangers Of Restrictions On Friendly Nations

Washington, Feb. 22.

The U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson, told Congress today that friendly countries would be forced to increase their trade with the Soviet bloc if they were needlessly denied access to American markets.

Mr Acheson was urging the Senate Finance Committee to approve a three-year extension of the Administration's Reciprocal Trade programme without some of the strings tied to it by the House of Representatives.

He declared that the House restrictions would make the programme unworkable.

"We are determined that, by no act or deed, shall we contribute to building up the war potential of the Soviet Union or its satellites," he said.

"If we deny our market unnecessarily to these friendly

countries, or if we act in such a way as to make them believe that such is our intention, they must turn elsewhere to dispose of their products in order to get the things they need."

The reciprocal trade programme was both the instrument and the symbol of American leadership in the free world, he said.

The Senate Finance Committee will study the programme, which is destined to lower tariffs, before reporting to the Senate.

"PERIL POINT"

The House of Representatives recently approved a three-year extension of the programme but wrote in amendments which Mr Acheson said would cripple it and make it unworkable.

"The action of the House of Representatives," Mr Acheson said, "would prevent us from effective tariff bargaining in the future."

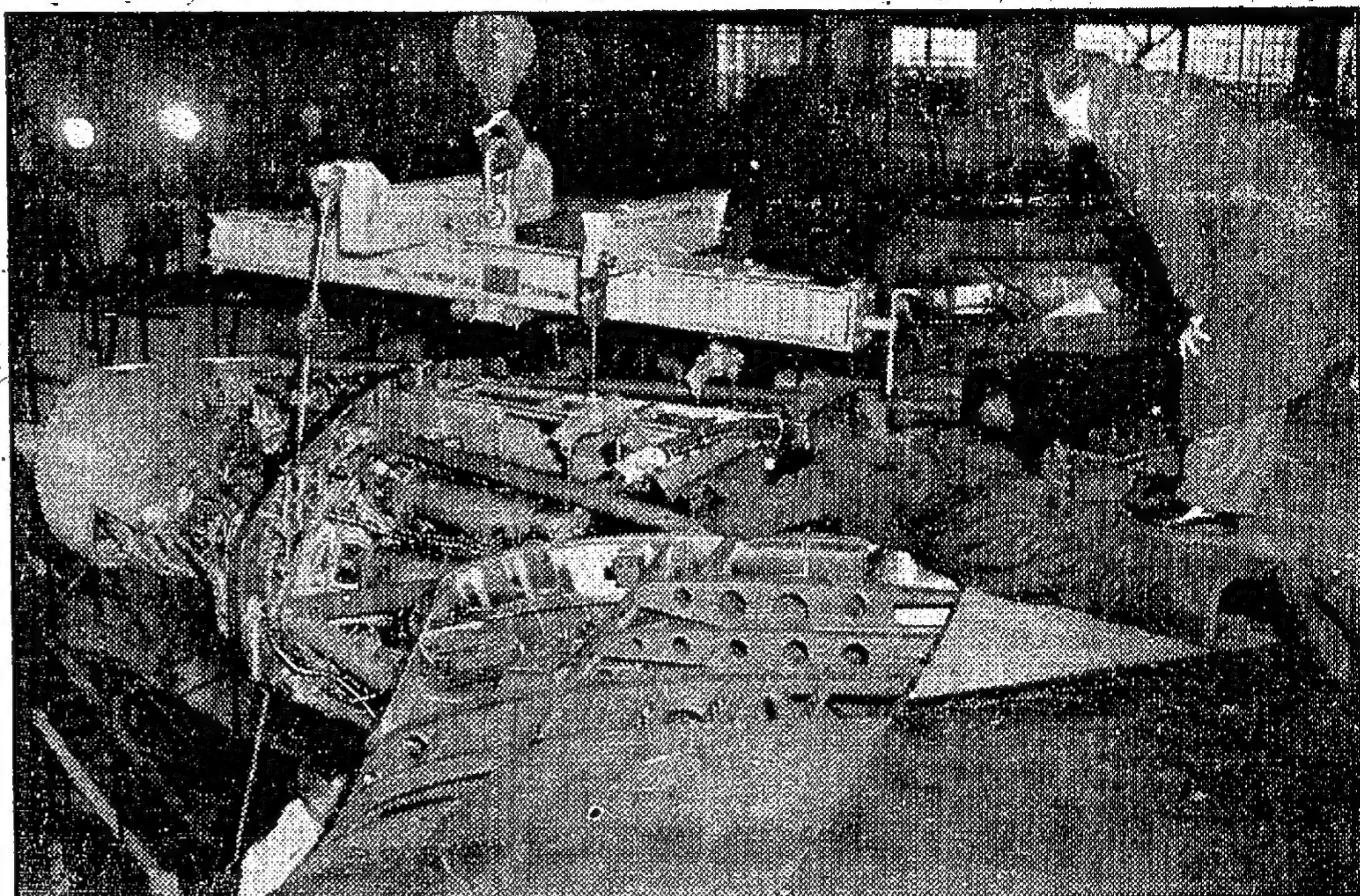
Mr Acheson's main objection was to the so-called "peril point" amendment written into the programme by the House of Representatives.

This amendment would require President Truman to report to Congress if he lowered the tariff on an import below the level recommended by the Tariff Commission.

"If the United States starts in the direction of restricting trade, of protectionism, of economic isolationism, or if we lead other countries to believe that is what we are going to do," Mr Acheson testified, "the trend (toward free trade) will be reversed and we will move rapidly in the direction of more restriction, more bilateralism and more discrimination in world trading conditions."

He said that was so because the United States was the most important trading nation in the world and because it has the most at stake in the preservation of the private, competitive enterprise system.

On the "peril point" amendment, Mr Acheson said that this could be modified to make it more workable by letting the Tariff Commission participate directly in the negotiation of trade agreements.—*Reuter*.



The first of the three 140-ton, 10-engined Saunders-Roe "Princess" flying boats now being built at Cowes, Isle of Wight, last week received its first pair of Bristol Proteus engines weighing five tons. They are turbo-props each developing 3,500 h.p., and this picture was taken as the first of the coupled engines—there are four, with two singles—was about to be installed. — *Central Press*.

General Wants U.S. Air Force To Be Doubled

Washington, Feb. 22.

General Carl Spaatz, the former Air Force Chief of Staff, told Congress today that the United States should start at once to build a 250-group Air Force—more than twice the present goal.

The present Air Force goal is between 95 and 100 groups. There are actually far fewer groups now.

General Spaatz testified in the Senate hearing on the Administration's plan to send four more ground divisions to Europe for General Eisenhower's Atlantic Pact army.

Troops should be sent, but not at a sacrifice of the strength of the Air Force, he argued.

General Spaatz told the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees that unless the United States raised its air power immediately, the free world could suffer disaster in a few years.

General Spaatz made his recommendation under questioning by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge.

Asked to set an air power goal, General Spaatz snapped it should be at least as many air groups as the United States had in World War II.

Senator Lodge asked: "How many is that?"

General Spaatz replied: "Two hundred and fifty." — *United Press*.

Canadian Brigade For Europe

Ottawa, Feb. 22.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Louis St. Laurent, told the Commons today that Canada still intended to send a brigade group of ground forces to Europe to serve under General Eisenhower.

Mr. St. Laurent said that last night's announcement that a full brigade was being sent to Korea did not change the general plan for Canadian participation in the North Atlantic Army.

The leader of the Opposition, Mr. George Drew, asked what steps the government was taking to build up sufficient forces to be sent to Europe. Mr. St. Laurent said no change had been made in the basic government policy regarding the European Army and when decisions were made by the government they would be announced in Parliament.—*United Press*.

Mao Economises In Words

Tokyo, Feb. 22.

Peking radio said today that Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Communist Commander-in-Chief, General Chu Teh, cabled greetings to Stalin and Marshal Vassilevsky, respectively, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Soviet Army Day on Friday.

Observers here noted that Mao's message this year was much more perfunctory than last year's. A year ago, Mao, returning from the momentous Moscow conference, cabled Stalin en route upon the "grand anniversary" and termed the Soviet Army "great defender of world peace."

Today's message said: "Upon the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the founding of the armed forces of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, please accept my hearty congratulations." — *United Press*.

U.S. Search For Missing Men

Tokyo, Feb. 22.

Search was being made tonight for 21 seamen from the 7,214-ton Norwegian ship, Florentine, which sank 150 miles west of Iwojima two days ago.

A United States Navy spokesman said today that it was not clear what had happened but the ship was believed to have run aground after breaking her rudder and to have sunk immediately by the stern.—*Reuter*.

Malaya's Guerilla War

Singapore, Feb. 22.

Guerillas killed a British soldier and wounded another member of the security forces in an engagement yesterday in the Bahau area of Negri Sembilan.

Two Chinese women, later identified as Communists, were shot dead by the security forces in the Mentakab area of Pahang State.

In Perak, terrorists beat a Chinese tin mine overseer to death with an iron bar. A suspected Communist gunman shot a 22-year-old Chinese shop assistant through the chest in the centre of Singapore in broad daylight yesterday and escaped.

The victim was arrested in Singapore last May Day and held by the police as a suspected Communist until October. His condition was not serious last night.

Detectives opened fire in a crowded city street last night while chasing four Chinese who had been caught sticking up Communist posters. One was arrested.—*Reuter*.

AVALANCHE MENACE

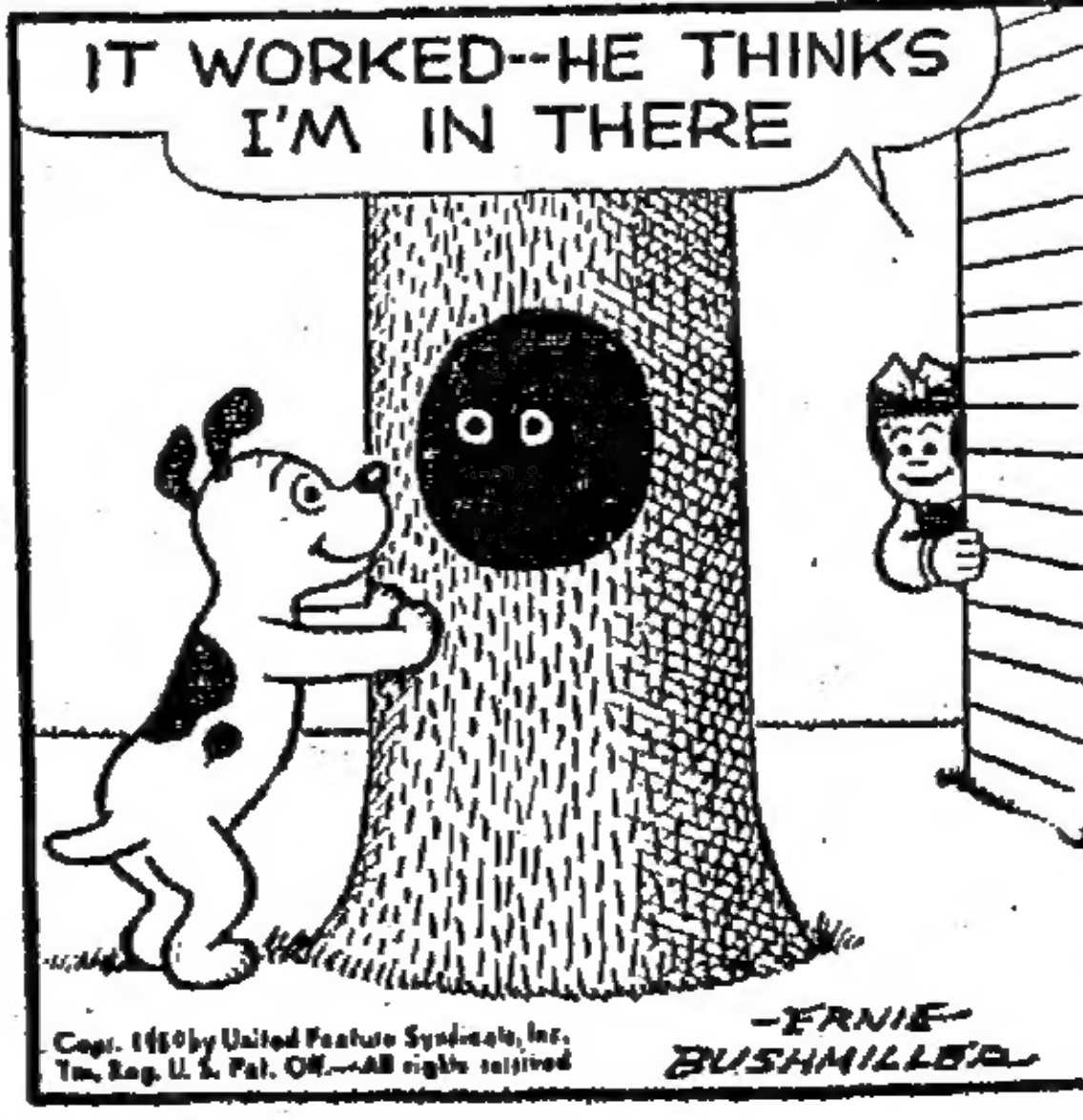
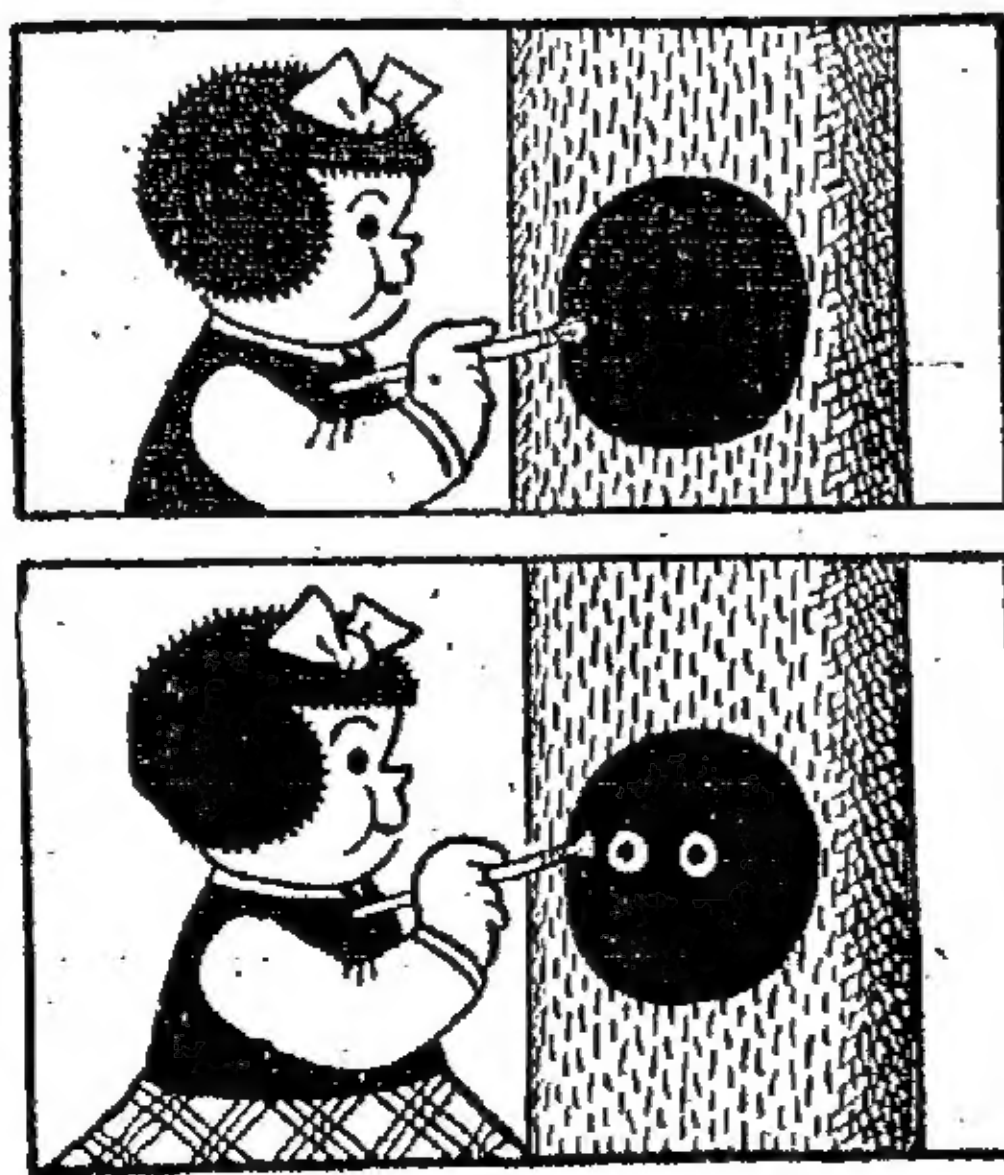
Geneva, Feb. 22.

Heavy falls of snow in the Loetschental area, between Kandersteg and the Jungfrau U. have reached the danger of avalanches.

The village of Eisten, which was hit by avalanches last January, has been evacuated. After more than a week's work, the St. Gothard line south of Airolo has now been cleared.—*Reuter*.

NANCY

Oaky Dokey



By Ernie Bushmiller.

For All The Glory Of The Cup THE LEAGUE REMAINS THE TRUER TEST OF MERIT

Says **WALTER PILKINGTON**

For all the glory and the glamour that comes the way of the successful team in the great English Football Association Cup competition, it is generally admitted that a truer test of merit is the League Championship reward. This is the emblem of consistency in the hard marathon race of 42 matches in all the varied conditions of an English autumn and winter, reviled often by those who endure its whims but nostalgic to all who are far from their native land.

Yet if one asked those intimately attached to any League club of accepted standing what was their dearest wish in football it would be neither the Cup nor the Championship, but constant membership of the First Division—the consuming desire of all who are in it is to stay there: the ever burning ambition of those without is to get inside.

Short of a further but exceedingly unlikely extension of its bounds, which, since 1919, have limited membership to 22 of the elite of England's 24,000 amateur and professional clubs, entry and exit are determined in simple fashion. The two top-most clubs in Division Two at the season's end take the places of the bottom pair in Division One. The spur of competition has made this promotion and relegation system unsurpassed as a means of sustaining public interest in professional football.

The procedure has been widely copied so that admiration of it elsewhere is revealed by imitation. Alas, say those who have enjoyed the privileges of lofty status, they are far easier to lose than regain. The great cities of Nottingham and Bradford each had two First Division clubs during the period between the two World Wars.

Today all four belong to a lower order, and so do Birmingham, Manchester City, Preston

North End, Grimsby Town, Leicester City, Oldham Athletic, Bury, Bristol City, Leeds United, Cardiff City, West Ham United, Brentford, Sheffield United and Blackburn Rovers.

The glory of Division One has gone from them. Indeed, Oldham, who last consorted with the mighty in 1923, and Bristol City, who made a lamented exit in 1910, have suffered the ill fate of sinking into Division Three, in which humble but aspiring company both the Bradford clubs and Nottingham Forest also now find themselves.

gain promotion. Those who soon return are offset by those who find the task harder, and as the years pass it becomes more difficult to achieve.

Thus the wealthy Tottenham Hotspur had to wait eight seasons before reaching their goal, Newcastle United seven and Stoke City ten. These proposals for extending the scope of promotion are also viewed dubiously by the reigning senior clubs for the reason that such moves within a few years could alter the entire complexion of the First Division by admitting new and increasingly powerful clubs.

Similar suggestions have been discussed at previous League "Parliaments" and have been summarily rejected. Such is likely to be the fate of the latest attempt at infiltration. Far better, the League elders say, to give the public the excitement of a promotion struggle such as is being waged at the present time by ten Second Division clubs.

All of them claim to be fighting for their "rightful place" and the contest is so full of fluctuations that a team midway in the table two months ago, Preston North End, rose rapidly and without hindrance to the top. Preston, as one of the old originals, have a rightful claim but some of their rivals have doubtful qualifications beyond the all important one of intrinsic merit.

It is a remarkable fact that as many as 39 clubs have lost their places in Division One through the years. Seventeen of these are back and the remaining five of the full number of 22 have never forfeited senior status since gaining it. These are Sunderland, elected two years after the formation of the League when there was no Second Division, and now taking part in their 50th successive season of membership; Huddersfield, promoted in 1920, Portsmouth, present champions, promoted in 1927, Charlton and Fulham.

Were one to rate seniority on consecutive seasons of membership since last being in lower company the order of the clubs now in Division One would be: Sunderland (50 seasons); Liverpool (35); Arsenal, elected from Division Two when the League was extended in 1919, (25); Huddersfield (24); Derby County (18); Portsmouth (17); Middlesbrough (15); Chelsea (14); Everton (13); Wolverhampton (12); Stoke City (11); Bolton Wanderers (9); Charlton (8); Blackpool (7); Aston Villa and Manchester United (6); Burnley (4); Newcastle (3); West Bromwich and Fulham (2); Tottenham and Sheffield Wednesday (1).

Of these Burnley, Bolton, Everton, Aston Villa, Derby County, West Bromwich, Stoke City and Wolverhampton were among the original members of 62 years ago.

PERENNIAL FASCINATION

Such are the ups and downs which are the perennial fascination of League football in England to many millions. Change and decay, rise and fall, impoverishment after riches—all this and more is mirrored in the history of the League. Study the fallen. Among the 18 named are six from Lancashire, the densely populated industrial area in North-West England which, with the Midlands, cradled professional football in England. Of the original 12 members of a League now 92 strong, six belonged to Lancashire, three to the Birmingham area, and the others were Derby County, Stoke City and Notts County. Lancashire's lost ones include the once mighty Preston North End, once undefeated winners of the League and Cup in the same season, Blackburn Rovers, League champions in three successive years and Cup holders six times, and Manchester City, who also have gained many triumphs.

Is the First Division so exclusive a preserve that access cannot be made easier? Cannot four clubs go up and four go down, plead those who are not in Division One? They plan at the League's next annual meeting to seek to alter the rule from two up or down, to four. Hiding their true aim, which is to make the return journey simpler for themselves, they advocate the nobler idea of improving football by easing the strain of struggling to avoid or to attain two places. But the voters of Division One are too wary to be deceived. They are as nearly as possible a closed corporation and intend to remain so. Status is their prime concern. Class, they argue, goes with it, and the quality of First Division football is good enough to keep both attendances and enthusiasm high.

WORTH £10,000 A YEAR

At a modest estimate, senior ranking is worth £10,000 a year in attendance receipts to those who hold it. Relegated clubs have taken £500 less at each home match and on an average five years are needed to

THE GAMBOLE



500 WORDS CAN BE SUFFICIENT

Says **Harold Abrahams**

During the past two and a half years the Rules and Records Committee of the International Amateur Athletic Federation have been engaged upon revising the rules for competition.

It is nearly 40 years since the first code was drawn up, and almost annually there have been amendments of every kind. This is the first attempt at codification, and you can imagine the formidable nature of the task which faced my colleagues and myself.

Apart from agreeing principles (not quite so difficult as at UNO, but difficult enough), there is the problem of reducing the principle into unambiguous language.

HOW INADEQUATE!

Not for the first time has it been brought home to me how inadequate language can be—an inadequacy enhanced by the pitfalls of translation. Though English was the language used in discussion, not all the members were conversant with it; and my French never got much beyond asking the whereabouts of my father's sister's writing utensil.

Still, the task is done, and in due course thousands of words will appear, seeking to regulate the activities and eccentricities of athletes from all parts of the world.

It was, therefore, with interest and a deep sigh that a few days ago I happened upon "The Laws of Athletics as in force at the Amateur Champion Meeting and Oxford and Cambridge Universities." The date was about 1870, and they appear on a sheet of paper measuring six inches by four—a total of about 500 words.

I wonder if they achieved any less fair results; and whether the provision that in the high jump "the height at each successive elevation shall be determined by the majority of competitors" didn't contain a spirit which somehow has been lost under the intensity of modern competition, and the words required to control it?

Rugger Results

London, Feb. 22.
The following were the results of Rugby Union matches played today:

HOSPITAL'S CUP
Second Round
St Mary's Hospital 43, University College Hospital 0.

Other Match
Oxford University 3, Northampton 5.—Reuter.

Richest Derby Of All Time

By **Vernon Morgan**

London, Feb. 22.

The Derby this year may well be the richest British classic of all time and approach the £20,000 mark.

Last year's Derby, won by M. Marcel Boussac's Galdador, was worth over £17,000, setting a new record for this famous classic.

This year the race should be worth several thousands more, judging by the number of entries and the horses still left in the race. Keeping their entries in the race at this stage, four months before the race is due to be run on May 30, has cost owners £60 each.

It will cost them a further £40 each if they accept at the last forfeit. How many will do so is, of course, a pure guess. The number might be as high as 40 or as low as 20. Supposing it is something between the two, then the race should be worth something over £19,000.

This will not, however, make it the richest race of the year or of all time in Britain for the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Festival of Britain Stakes at Ascot this year will be worth several thousands more.

Not only is there £20,000 added money but it is going to cost £200 to run a horse. The prize, therefore, may be a very valuable one and as rich as any the world over.

The French, who have won the Derby three times in the last five years, are after this coveted classic again, judging by the fact that their entries number no fewer than 70.

They are headed by seven from the influential Boussac stable. These are the Gimcrack Stakes winner, Cortil, Nyangal, thought at present to be the best of the Boussac three-year-old colts, Dambo, Dantar, Corral, Flamboyant and Dayrat-el-Mahdi.

The owner with the greatest number of entries is the Aga Khan, who has 11. There is none among these, however, who in his juvenile days has done anything to suggest that he is a potential Derby winner. Time alone will tell whether there is not another "Bahram" amongst them.—Reuter.

England's Team For The Fifth Test

Trevor Bailey, the Essex pace bowler, returns to England's side in place of John Warr for the fifth and final Test starting at Melbourne Oval today.

As expected, this is the only change from the team which played in the fourth Test.

Bailey broke a bone at the base of his right thumb during the third Test at Sydney. On his first appearance since the injury he scored 125 runs against Victoria here last week, but was given only short spells with the ball.

The England team is as follows:

F. R. Brown (Northamptonshire) captain, L. Hutton (Yorkshire), C. Washbrook (Lancashire), R. T. Simpson (Nottinghamshire), D. Compton (Middlesex), D. S. Sheppard (Sussex), T. G. Evans (Kent), T. E. Bailey (Essex), A. V. Bedser (Surrey), T. Tattersall (Lancashire), D. V. P. Wright (Kent).

Twelfth man is A. J. McIntyre (Surrey).—Reuter.

Tennis Exhibition This Afternoon At Chater Road

The visiting American and Swedish lawn tennis stars, Miss Dorothy Head, Fred Kovaleski, Irvin Dorfman and Sven Davidsson, who will be taking part in exhibition games against the cream of local talent, were out practising at Chater Road yesterday afternoon with Mr H. A. Ayres and Mr George Choa.

There was a large crowd present to watch the visitors at practice and although the latter did not go all out, they gave a very impressive display.

The following is the programme for this afternoon's exhibition games at Chater Road:

Singles: Miss Dorothy Head v Mrs Mary Chow.

Singles: Sven Davidsson v Ip Koon-hung.

Doubles: Dorfman and Kovaleski v Colonel Spence and Edwin Tsai.

Tickets, which will be available at the gate, are priced at \$10 for seats and \$5 for standing room.

COLONY TENNIS

Lee Wai-tong was eliminated from the Colony Open Singles Lawn Tennis Championship yesterday, when he was beaten by Chen Yih 7-5, 6-2.

In a hard fought match which ended in semi-darkness, J. L. P. Wallis qualified for the next round as the result of a win over Lam Wai-guy, whom he beat 7-5, 2-6, 7-5.

The following are the results of yesterday's games:

Choy Tin-kin lost to Tsui Yun-pui 2-6, 2-6, 2-6. J. L. P. Wallis beat Lam Wai-guy 7-5, 2-6, 7-5; Tsui Ping-fay beat S. Hussain 6-3, 6-2; K. C. Dao beat David King 6-1, 6-2; Chen Yih beat Lee Wai-tong 7-5, 6-2.

FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

UN Report On
Economy Of The
Middle East

Santiago, Chile, Feb. 22.

Lack of capital and the shortage of local technicians were the primary causes of the present inadequate economic development of the Middle East, the United Nations Economic and Social Council was told here today.

A United Nations report on economic conditions in the Middle East presented to the Council's 12-nation session here today stated:

"The present state of the Middle Eastern countries presents a startling contrast to the potentialities open to the majority of them....

"The vicious circle of lack of investment keeping output down and low output failing to provide the necessary surplus for investment operates in the Middle East as in other under-developed areas.

"The gap created by the inadequacy of domestic savings has been filled to only a limited extent by foreign capital which, by its very nature, can only supplement not act as a substitute for local capital, and the contributions of oil royalties and the sterling balances to the economy of the region have also been limited.

"The factors responsible for maintaining the Middle Eastern agricultural output at its present low level fall into the following main groups: national conditions, of which the chief is the insufficiency and irregular distribution of rainfall, technical backwardness and the unequal distribution of land and the unfavourable systems of land tenure prevalent over most of the region.

"Among the principal factors retarding the expansion of industry may be listed the narrowness of the home market, the limited range of the raw materials available in the region and the shortage of trained managers and technicians."

Bank Mission
To Iraq

Washington, Feb. 22.

The International Bank today announced that it was sending a 14-man team of experts to Iraq to help that Government set up a long-term programme to develop the country's resources.

The mission, organised at the request of the Iraqi Government, will be headed by Ivar Rooth, prominent Swedish financier. It is to arrive in Baghdad on Feb. 25 and to remain in Iraq for about three months.—United Press.

Bank Of France
Statement

Paris, Feb. 22.

The Bank of France statement for the week ending Feb. 21 reads as follows:—

Total gold holdings	182,594,771.248
Total of other currencies	4,063,174.115
Sight balances abroad	184,153,346.405
Advance to currency stabilisation fund	131,900,000.000
Bills discounted in France and abroad	401,237,070.025
Notes in circulation	1,552,880,265.950
Current accounts & deposits	168,365,326

—United Press.

Bank Of England
Statement

London, Feb. 22.

The Bank of England statement for the week ending Feb. 21 reads as follows:—

Notes in circulation	£1,285,819,000
Public deposits	22,247,000
Private deposits	311,916,000
Government securities	47,417,000
Other securities	65,080,000
Bank ratio	18.00

—United Press.

LONDON TIN
MARKET

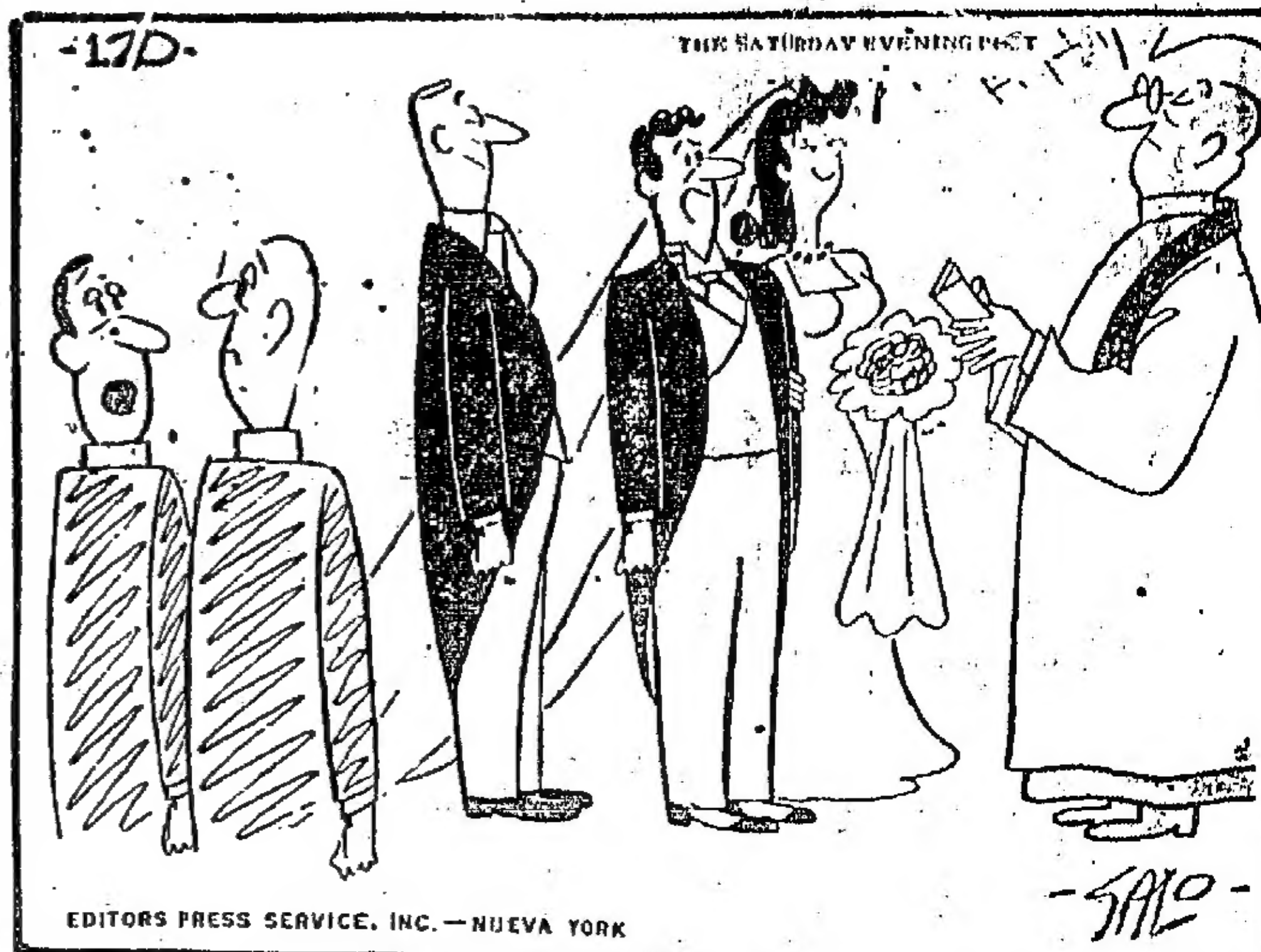
London, Feb. 22.

The tin market improved a little at the morning session. Turnover was 30 tons, all for three-months.

Prices closed today at the end of the official morning session as follows:—

Spot tin, buyers	1,480
Spot tin, sellers	1,490
Business done at	nil
Three-months tin, buyers	1,415
Three-months tin, sellers	1,420
Business done at	1,420-1,400
Settlement	1,485

—United Press.



"It all started with a long-drawn-out whistle..."

The "Call Sheet" Is
Hollywood's Bible

The "Call Sheet" is Hollywood's Bible. It is a piece of white paper nine inches wide by 13 inches long, containing an assistant director's instructions for the day's filming of a motion picture.

The Call Sheet lists the names of all actors and actresses "on call" to work each day, names the location

where filming will take place, describes the sets, states the exact time work will start on each scene, outlines the day's demands on all studio departments.

The Call Sheet is worth more than a film star's paycheck. No star would get a decent paycheck if the instructions on the Call Sheet didn't make it possible to film big movies accurately, swiftly, right on schedule.

Directors and their assistants, department heads, stars, feature players and extras carry the day's Call Sheet stuffed in their pockets. The Call Sheet is pinned to countless bulletin boards, where he who runs may read.

To the studio visitor, however, the Call Sheet is a mumbo-jumbo often meaning nil. It might as well be written in Sanskrit, for all the information it brings to them. Its cabalistic, cryptic instructions, phrased in the strange language employed by movie technical men, would baffle even that noted Washington cipher expert, David A. Salmon, World War II chief of the State Department's Division of Communications and Records.

SIMPLY PEDESTRIANS

Samples? Certainly. "Six street women" were requested one day on the Call Sheet of RKO Radio's "Mad Wednesday." This was not, however, a request for six women of easy virtue to hobnob with the star of the picture, Harold Lloyd. The assistant director was asking merely for six feminine extras as background pedestrians.

"Best boy and gaffer on set at 7.00 a.m." was an instruction on the Call Sheet of another RKO picture, "Where Danger Lives," which will bring Robert Mitchum, Faith Domergue and Claude Rains to the screen shortly in a rugged melodrama. For your information, folks, a "gaffer" is the head electrician on a picture, the "best boy" is his assistant.

One of the last Call Sheets for "Mother of a Champion," a Filmmakers production co-starring Sally Forrest and Claire Trevor, bore the following memo:

"Will notify if part of umpire will work."

That was all. There was no indication as to what part of the umpire might be out of order. But the Casting office understood immediately that it would be notified later whether or not to call the actor assigned to play the role of a tennis official.

It sounded like a mighty big order when a Call Sheet for RKO's "Walk Softly, Stranger" requested "three flattops." As it turned out, Assistant Director Harry D'Arcy didn't need three Navy aeroplane carriers.

He was demanding three plain, run-of-the-mill, flat-topped portable dressing rooms, as distinguished from the more

luxurious trailers provided for the stars of the film, Joseph Cotten and Valli.

WHO'S A GRIP?

One of the requirements listed on a Call Sheet for Howard Hughes' "Vendetta," starring vehicle for Faith Domergue, was "four grips on set." But no suitcases were in evidence when the day's filming started—the answer being that a "grip" is a husky movie stage hand.

James Casey, assistant director on "Never a Dull Moment," in which Irene Dunne and Fred MacMurray are presently emoting, listed on his Call Sheet a request for "man to blow smoke rings."

That didn't mean, however, a man peculiarly gifted with that old cigarette-smoking accomplishment. The man who "blows" smoke rings for a movie scene doesn't blow 'em at all. He's a technician who fills with smoke a can containing a round hole in the top—then, tapping the bottom scientifically, he produces the most perfect smoke rings ever seen!

The Call Sheet for "The Story of a Divorce," co-starring Bette Davis and Barry Sullivan, asked one day for "two sb.'s to open big doors." Quiet, please—an "sb." in movie parlance is a "stand-by," a man who stands by to perform odd jobs.

Deceptive, surely, is the phraseology of the Call Sheet, deceptive as the remark of Lex Barker who, returning recently from filming Sol Lesser's "Tarzan's Peril" in Africa, made the statement that he had "killed lions with a club."

"Weren't you scared?" gasped a woman listener.

"No," was the bland reply. "There were fifty members in the club!"

STANDARD BRIDGE

By M. Harrison-Gray

Dealer: South.
Game all.

N.	E.
6 3	Q 9 6 4 2
K Q	10 6 5
7 3	7 3
W.	S.
Q 10 8 5 2	A 7 4
A J 7 3	10 3
A 4	7 3 2
K Q	A 10 9 6 4
	S.
	A K J 9
	5
	K Q 9 8
	J 8 5 2

This hand featured some terrible bidding by both sides. South correctly opened One Diamond, which West should have doubled, but he bid One Spade. Instead of passing, North made the free bid of Two Hearts, forcing South to call Two No-Trumps. North tried to sign off in Three Hearts, but South persisted with Three No-Trumps which West doubled.

5 was led to 3, and South gained access to dummy with ♠Q, as West could not know that ♠5 was a singleton. 10 was led and run to West's ♠A. After cashing ♠K, ♠Q and ♠A, West got off play with ♠4, and this defence held South to seven tricks—an unnecessary crash by North-South, for they could have left West in One Spade, which is easily defeated.

London Express Service.

Freight Rates
Increased

Sydney, Feb. 22.

Shipping freight rates from Australia to China, Japan and other Eastern ports are to be increased from April 1 by £1 (Australian) per ton for general cargo and cereals, one farthing (Australian) per pound for wool and one-halfpenny (Australian) per pound for refrigerated cargo.

Announcing this today, the Chairman of the Australian Eastern Shipping Conference, Mr J. O. Plim, said that prolonged delays in loading and discharging in Australian ports were the reason for the increase.—Reuter.

SHANGHAI
BUSINESS
EXPANSION

San Francisco, Feb. 22.

Shanghai is prospering, Peking Radio claimed tonight. Pointing to this is the fact that more than 1,500 applications for starting new businesses were lodged with the Shanghai Industrial and Commercial Bureau during January, the Radio added.

The broadcast said that the number of industrial and commercial firms in Shanghai had grown rapidly following upon stabilisation of the market on a nation-wide basis and a boom in rural-urban trade.

It is further claimed that the volume of trade in almost all commodities in Shanghai had also increased considerably.

Last month the demand for consumption goods touched a new level. Compared with December figures, sugar, cooking oil and rice sold in the market increased by 76 per cent, 48 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively.—Reuter.

Jap Nails For
Singapore

Tokyo, Feb. 23.

A local exporter has signed a contract to export 300 kegs (sixty pounds per keg) of nails to Singapore at \$15 per keg, trade sources reported today.

A sizeable number of contracts is expected to be concluded with Singapore shortly with inquiries from that direction recently showing a gradual increase. However, the export of nails on a large scale is not possible at present as makers have their hands full with a large volume of orders still to be fulfilled.

Nail prices are steadily rising in sympathy with the cost of the material.—United Press.

New Mining
Methods In
Red China

San Francisco, Feb. 22.

Peking Radio said tonight that new mining methods introduced by Soviet specialists had brought excellent results in the North China Feng Feng colliery.

The broadcast said that in 1950 coal output was 135 per cent of 1949 and the casualty rate fell by 30 percent.

Some mechanical cutters had been installed, pneumatic picks had replaced hand picks and mechanical conveyors were in use.

The broadcast added that the Feng Feng colliery increased its daily output to 157 percent of November, "spurred by victories in Korea"—Reuter.

Rubber Futures
In S'pore

Singapore, Feb. 22.

Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:—

Number 1 rubber, per lb. February	223-224
March	216-217
Number 2 rubber, February	215-216
Number 3 rubber, February	203-204
Number 4 rubber, February	192-193
Spot rubber, unbaled	226-227
Black crepe	164-165
No. 1 pale crepe	228-230

—United Press.

London Rubber
Futures

London, Feb. 22.

Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:—

Number 1 rubber, in cents per lb.	70½
April	68½-67
April/June	64-64½
July/September	59-59½
October/December	54½ nominal

—United Press.

VIGOROUS CHURCHILL PROTEST

Disturbed By Choice Of American To Naval Command

Was Not British Admiral Capable Of This Duty?

London, Feb. 22.

Mr Winston Churchill, the leader of the Conservative Opposition, protested in the House of Commons today over the choice of an American Admiral as the Supreme Commander of the Atlantic Pact sea forces.

The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, was questioned for about 20 minutes after announcing that an American had been given the post. He did not disclose his identity but it is believed that the man chosen is Admiral William Fechteler, at present Commander of the United States Atlantic Fleet.

Mr Attlee stated that a formal announcement was expected to be made shortly.

Mr Churchill, who was First Lord of the Admiralty in World War I and World War II, immediately jumped up and amidst Conservative cheers, demanded 'Was there not a British admiral capable of discharging these functions?'

Mr Attlee replied that no power in the Atlantic Pact Organisation had an absolute right to dictate views on any appointment.

As the Conservatives sniped at him with interruptions and questions, the Prime Minister said that the general opinion was that this was the best appointment. It was not possible, Mr Attlee said, for one country to insist on its right to some particular command.

At this Mr Churchill declared sharply: "It was possible not very long ago for one country to sink 525 German U-boats compared to 174 by the United States."

Rising to his feet, he said: "No one is going to argue that I am hostile to the United States. But I do not think our country ought to have fallen so far into the walks of humility."

Mr Churchill said: "How is it that when our experience is longer and wider than that of any other country and when we have all agreed with so much pleasure that General Eisenhower should command the armed forces on land that we should have to resign any claims we might be thought to have to command of the sea?"

Mr John Hynd, Labour, said that the Americans as well as the British ought to appreciate "the very important psychological question involved."

"SOMETHING WRONG"

The world at large was beginning to think that there was something wrong when the Americans had the leadership of the Atlantic forces on land, the leadership of the Korean forces and were now apparently to have leadership of another force, he said.

Mr Attlee did not answer. Mr Churchill then asked if the matter was finally settled or whether the Prime Minister, in view of the widespread feeling in the House of Commons, would make a further appeal to the United States to "consider this matter in all friendship and loyal feelings of comradeship."

He continued: "We welcome General Eisenhower. The Americans alone have the atomic bomb and that covers a great part of the air. Here in this question (of the sea), which is absolutely vital to this island, will the Prime Minister not ask them to give consideration and will he not believe that they are very ready to treat loyal allies with all fairness and generosity?"

"SHAME"

Mr Attlee said that he would certainly look into the matter. "I cannot say more than that," he added. "As I understand it they have selected the admiral they thought most suitable."

To Conservative cries of "Shame," Mr Attlee said that the identity of the admiral had not yet been announced.

Mr Attlee said that he would take into full consideration everything that Mr Churchill had said.

Mr Churchill: "It is late in the day for the Prime Minister of this country to look into the matter. Was he not consulted beforehand?"

Mr Attlee: "Yes, the matter has been very fully considered. I have said that I will reconsider and look into the matter."

Mr Percy Collick, Labour, asked: "Was any British Admiral nominated for this position?"

Mr Attlee did not reply. Mr Churchill's protest was echoed in the House of Lords by Lord Strabolgi, Labour, who was a former naval commander.

TRADITIONAL HANDS

Lord Strabolgi said that the appointment of an American might be all very well from the point of view of co-ordination. But the British Navy man wanted a leader he knew and trusted.

"If trouble comes any American Government, whatever its colour, will be under tremendous pressure by American public opinion, which is not the calmest in the world, and Congress—also not the calmest in the world—for the defence of the two shores of the American continent," he said.

Amidst cheers, he added: "I think we should retain command of our own fleet in the last resort and that responsibility for the defence of these shores and control of our sea routes should be in traditional hands."—Reuter.

U.S. ATTITUDE

Washington, Feb. 22. Officials here today said that it was possible for the British Government or any other Atlantic Pact member, to ask for re-consideration of appointments made by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

They were commenting on the protest by Mr Winston Churchill in the House of Commons today against the decision to appoint an American admiral to command the Atlantic Pact sea forces.

Re-consideration of the appointment, however, would require the consent of the 12 North Atlantic Treaty Governments.

Usually reliable sources here said that the British Government had agreed at the Brussels meeting in December to the appointment of an American to the North Atlantic naval command.

It is understood that the United States then nominated Admiral William Fechteler,

FRENCH ARMS CHIEF ARRESTED

Paris, Feb. 22.

Louie Huet, production chief of a large armaments factory, was arrested tonight during a secret police spy hunt to recover stolen plans for a super anti-tank grenade.

The new grenade, in which the Atlantic Pact generals were reported interested, was said to penetrate armour twice as thick as that used on present-day heavy tanks. Huet had reported that the plans were taken from his car on Saturday night while he was visiting friends. He said they were in a briefcase on the back seat.

The car window was broken and it was at first believed the briefcase was taken by an ordinary thief. The police spent two days questioning Huet. He was arrested on a military warrant charging him with criminal negligence affecting national defence.

The police said some of the plans had been found on the banks of a canal in the working class district and this had caused speculation the theft was not a case of espionage.—United Press.

Rains Loose Giant Landslides

Bologna, Italy, Feb. 22.

Villagers hurriedly fled their homes today when two giant landslides threatened to engulf several hamlets in the Bologna-Modena area of the Apennines.

A mass of earth loosened by heavy rains, was advancing on a one and a quarter miles front at Eastel Dell'Alpi, 25 miles south of Bologna. Three tiny villages in its path were evacuated.

Another landslide, which had been slowly moving forward at Teglia di Frassinoro, near Modena, buried a house and two sheds of the village today. Its volume was estimated at 100,000 cubic metres.

A landslide in the Giudicarie valley, north-west of Lake Garda, killed a peasant.

Avalanches in the Trento area and near Domodossola destroyed some 60 Alpine huts and barns but harmed no one.—Reuter.

Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. His was the only nomination.

American officials declined to comment on Mr Churchill's suggestion that the appointment should have gone to a British admiral in view of Britain's "longer and wider" experience.

Privately, however, they did express sympathy with Mr Churchill's viewpoint.—Reuter.



BEAUTY ON THE BEACH—She's not exactly a beachcomber, but Martha Mitchell pauses a moment with a piece of driftwood on the Florida sand dunes. Perhaps she's looking out over the Gulf of Mexico, wondering what the waves are saying.

CNAC Issue In Parliament

(Our Own Correspondent)
London, Feb. 22.

The case of the Hong-kong aircraft which are claimed by the Chinese Communist Government and an American civil airline will be raised again in Parliament next week.

Air Commodore A. V. Harvey is to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies on Wednesday if he will make a statement on the subject.

These aircraft originally belonged to the China National Aviation Corporation and C.A.T. and are now at Kai Tak airport.

STOP PRESS

Australia Wins The Toss

Australia won the toss in the fifth Test match which opened in Melbourne this morning. Morris and Burke were nominated as opening batsmen.

Australia made one change in the side which beat England at Adelaide, Graham Hole, a batsman, replacing Archer.

After 20 minutes Australia were nine runs for no wickets. Morris was not out 3 and Burke not out 6.

Record Breaking Jet Delayed

Washington, Feb. 22.

The record-breaking twin jet Canberra bomber has been delayed at Gander, Newfoundland, for 24 hours and will not make its flight to Washington until tomorrow.

A United States Air Force spokesman said today that the pilot, Squadron Leader R.E. Callard, had informed him that he would delay his departure to complete a routine maintenance check.

The Canberra broke the trans-Atlantic record in a flight from Northern Ireland yesterday, covering the 2,100-miles in four hours, 40 minutes.—Reuter.

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